



A Second Brief for
Irish Protestants.



ILLIAM and MARY, By the Grace of GOD, King and Queen of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deans, and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and all other Spiritual Persons: And also to all Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bayliffs, Constables, Church-wardens, Chappel-wardens, Headboroughs, Collectors for the Poor, and their Overseers: And also to all Officers of Cities, Boroughs, and Towns Corporate; And to all other Our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects, whatsoever they be, as well within Liberties as without, to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas We did by Our Letters Patents, bearing Date the 26th day of April last, give Order and Authority for the making of a General Collection throughout this Kingdom, for the Relief of the poor distressed Protestants of Ireland, who have fled hither for the safety of their Lives: And though Our good Subjects of this Kingdom have given large Proofs of their Christian Charity, and Bowels of Compassion on this sad Occasion, so that great Sums of Money have been raised for the supply of those Our good Subjects of Ireland; yet by reason of the very great Numbers of those that needed it, and who have subsisted by that Charity, which hath been distributed amongst them with an Impartial Regard to their Necessities: and the Sums of Money that were brought in upon these Our former Letters Patents, are now quite exhausted, so that notwithstanding an abatement of those Numbers by the return of many of them into their own Native Country in Our Service, or otherwise; yet those that remain in this Kingdom, being above Twenty Five Thousand Persons, the greatest part of them Women and Children, who must perish with want if they are not kept alive by the Charity of Our good Subjects of this Kingdom, which We trust, (being sensible of the pressing Necessity) will not think it strange to see a second Collection of their Charity come so soon after the former. We do therefore exhort and require all Our good Subjects of this Kingdom, duly to consider the Necessities of these their Brethren, and to do for them on this Occasion, that which they would expect from others if they were reduced into the like Condition; not doubting but that many good Christians, being touch'd with a deep sense of their sad and deplorable Condition, will even streathe themselves in their unnecessary Expences, that so they may be able to contribute the more largely upon such an extraordinary Occasion, for His sake, who will pay again, what is thus lent to him.

Know ye therefore, That of Our especial Grace and Princely Compassion, We have given and granted, and by these Our Letters Patents under Our Great Seal of England, do give and grant unto the said distressed Protestants, and to their Agents, who shall be lawfully authorized on their behalf, full Power, License and Authority, to ask, gather, receive and take (according to the Rules specified in these Presents) the Alms and Charitable Benevolence of all Our loving Subjects, not only Householders, but also Servants, Strangers and others, within all and every the Counties, Cities, Boroughs, Towns Corporate, Privileged Places, Parishes, Chappelries, Towns, Villages, Hamlets, and all other places whatsoever in Our Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed.

Wherefore, We Require and Command all and singular the Archbishops and Bishops of all the Dioceses in both Provinces within Our Kingdom of England, and Dominion of Wales, (unto whose Paternal Care and Inspection We chiefly Recommend the pursuit of these Our Letters Patents,) That they, and every of them, do give a particular Recommendation and Command to all the Parsons, Vicars and Curates of all and every the Parishes, and other places as well within Liberties as without, within their respective Dioceses, for the Advancement of this so Pious and Charitable a Work.

And the said Parsons, Vicars and Curates, upon the first Lords Day, or second at the farthest, (after that the true Copies of these Our Letters Patents shall be delivered to them) shall deliberately and affectionately publish and declare the Tenor of the same unto Our said loving Subjects; and earnestly persuade, exhort and stir them up to contribute freely and cheerfully towards the Relief of the said distressed Protestants: And the Church-wardens are hereby required upon the Week days next following the said Lords Day, to go from House to House to ask and receive from all the Parishioners, as well Masters, Mistresses and Servants, as others in their Families, their Christian and Charitable Contributions; and to take the Names in Writing of all such as shall contribute thereunto, and the Sum or Sums of Money by them respectively given. And after such Collection made, they are, in the presence of the respective Inhabitants, on the next Lords Day following, to subscribe the whole Sum upon the said Briefs under their Hands, and also to enter them into Books of Accompts for the said Parishes and Chappelries respectively, and the places where, and the time when, such Sums were Collected: And they are also to deliver the same to the said Parsons, Vicars and Curates respectively; and the said Parsons, Vicars and Curates, are to send the said Moneys, together with the said Briefs, unto their respective Archdeacons, their Officials and Registers, in Parishes exempt or not exempt. And the said several Archdeacons, their Officials or Registers, upon receipt of the Moneys aforesaid, are to give Receipts to the respective Persons that pay the Money to them; and they are to pay the same as hereafter is declared and directed. And for the better performance of this so pious and charitable a Work, the said Parsons, Vicars and Curates respectively, are required, (where conveniently they may) to accompany the Church wardens in asking and receiving the Contributions, or procure some other chief Inhabitants in the said Parishes respectively to do the same.

And Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby for the better advancement of these Our Pious Intentions, Will, Require and Command, the Bishops, and all other Dignitaries of the Church, to make their Contributions distinctly, to be paid to the said Archdeacons, their Officials or Registers: And also that all Our loving Subjects of this Kingdom, of what Dignity, Degree or Quality soever, may manifest their Zeal in so good a Work, We do Recommend it to all Heads and Governors of Colleges and Halls in both Our Universities, and also the Judges and Officers of all and every Our respective Courts at Westminster, and the Professors of the Law both Common and Civil, and to all Students of the several Inns of Court and Chancery, by their several Bodies and Societies, to contribute their free and charitable Benevolence herein.

And further, Our Will and Pleasure is, That the Church-wardens of every Parish where these Our Letters Patents shall be read, having Collected the Charity of each Parishioner in manner aforesaid, do pay the same within Ten days unto the Parson, Vicar or Curate, of their respective Parishes; which said Parson, Vicar or Curate, shall within Ten days next after such Receipt of the said Money, make return thereof, together with the Printed Briefs, to his respective Archdeacon, Official or Register as aforesaid; and where there is no Incumbent, the Collector or Collectors shall pay the said Money to the respective Archdeacon, Official or Register; and the Archdeacon, Official or Register of the several Archdeaconries, shall likewise return, or pay the said Moneys within Twenty days next following into the Chamber of Our City of London: From whence we do hereby Authorize, Nominate and Appoint the Lords Archbishops of Canterbury and York for the time being, the Lord President, and all other the Lords of Our Privy Council, the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord High Steward of Our Household, the Lord Chamberlain of Our Household, the Duke of Ormond, Our Principal Secretaries of State, the Earls of Derby, Bedford, Northampton, Clarendon, Craven, Burying, Macclesfield, Radnor and Faulconbridge; the Lords Commissioners of Our Great Seal; the Lords Bishops of London, Durham, Winchester, and all other the Bishops of both Provinces; the Lord Wharton, the Lord Delamere; the Earls of Kildare, Roscommon, Meath, Montrath, Drogbeda, Donegal, Ranagh; the Lords Viscount Shannon, Dungannon, Charlmount, Poulscourt, Bellington and Lisbourne; the Lords Gorges, Colloony, Sautry and Blaney; the Archbishop of Dublin, the Archbishop of Tuam, the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, the Bishop of Kildare, the Bishop of Downe and Connor, the Lord Bishop of Killala, and the Lord Bishop of Derry, and Our Chief Justices of the Kings Bench and Common Pleas, the Lord Chief Baron of Our Exchequer, Our Attorney-General, Our Solicitor General for the time being, the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, Recorder and Sheriffs of Our City of London for the time being, Sir John Trevor, Sir John Lowther of Whitehaven, Sir Robert Southwell, Sir Charles Porter, Sir Thomas Clarges, Sir Peter Colliton, Sir Oliver Saint George, Sir Charles Meredith, Sir Walter Plunket, Sir Michael Cole, Sir John Cutler, Sir William Turner, Sir Peter Vandepur, Sir Richard Reynolds, Sir George Saint George, Sir Saint John Broderick, Sir Henry Bingham Baronets, John Osborne Esq; Doctor Birch, Robert Gorge Doctor of Laws, Nehemiah Donnolan, Henry Howard, Philip Savage, Thomas Keightley, John Davis, Epenetus Crose, William Worth, George Phillips, Henry Henn, Anderson Saunders, John Warbton, Joseph Stepney, and John Rogerston Esquires; the Dean of Saint Pauls, the Dean of Canterbury, the Dean of Peterborough, the Dean of Windsor, the Dean of Norwich, Dr. Tennison, Dr. Cave, Dr. Horneck, Dr. Wake, Thomas Firmin Gent. and Thomas Chambray Clerk; and they, or any Five or more of them, so as always Two of the Persons following, that is to say, The Earl of Clarendon, the Earl of Craven, the Earl of Burlington, the Lord Bishop of London, Lord Gorge, the Two Chief Justices, the Lord Chief Baron, the Attorney-General, the Sollicitor-General, the Lord Mayor and Recorder of London, Henry Howard, Sir Charles Porter, Sir Robert Clayton, Sir Peter Colliton, Sir Patience Ward, Sir Thomas Clarges, Sir William Turner, Sir Peter Vandepur, the Dean of Canterbury, the Dean of St. Pauls, Dr. Tennison, Dr. Horneck, Dr. Wake, and Thomas Firmin, be of the said Quorum of Five, to dispose and distribute the Money which shall be collected by Virtue hereof, in such manner as may best answer the Ends for which these Our Letters Patents were intended. And the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, whereof Two of the Number to be of the Quorum as aforesaid, shall meet for executing the Power herein mentioned, once or oftener in every Week, at or in the Convocation-House of St. Pauls Church in London, or at such convenient Place, and Day or Days as shall be appointed by the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, whereof Two of the Quorum to be of the Number as aforesaid: And that no Orders for Money be issued but from the Commissioners, or any Five of them, whereof Two to be of the Quorum.

And to the end, That all Persons who shall give unto, or receive from this Christian Charity, may have entire Satisfaction from time to time of the Sums received and disposed, We do hereby Order, That the aforesaid Commissioners take care, as We are credibly informed hath been done already on the former Brief for the said distressed Irish Protestants, that a Registry be kept of Receipts and Disbursements to be always ready for Our Royal View, and the View of Benefactors and others concerned; and also, that the particular Sum each Parish gave may remain as a perpetual Record of their Charity, and as an Encouragement to future Ages: For which care of the said Register, the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, (whereof Two to be of the Quorum as aforesaid) are hereby empowered to make such Allowances to such Person or Persons as they shall appoint for that purpose, and for the more effectual carrying on this Charitable Work, as in their Discretions shall seem meet.

And lastly, We do hereby direct and command, That the Ministers, Church-wardens, or Collectors of every Parish, do give an account by Letter directed to Mr. Thomas Firmin in Three Kings Court in Lombardstreet, London, within Ten days after the Collection is made, of what Sum they have collected or paid to their respective Archdeacon, Official or Register, together with the Names of the Parish and County; and each Minister is to set his Name on the Outside of the Letter he shall write to Mr. Firmin; and hereof they are not to fail at their peril of Our Displeasure.

In witness whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents, and to continue Two whole Years from the Date hereof, and no longer. Witness Our Selves at Westminster, the Eighteenth Day of February, in the Second Year of Our Reign.

GOD Save the KING and QUEEN.

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